

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Subregion: CENTRAL **County:** PLACER

Applicant: PLACER COUNTY- DEPT. OF FACILITY SERVICES

Project Title: HIDDEN FALLS REGIONAL PARK – TRAIL CONNECTIVITY

Reference Number: SNC 070140

PROJECT SCOPE

This project would facilitate development of trail alignment recommendations to best protect important natural resources, such as watershed health and water quality, and development of preliminary studies necessary for real property negotiation for conservation easement acquisition, including preliminary survey, geotechnical and cultural/archaeological studies, civil design, construction cost estimating, and Phase 1 ESA.

Specific actions include:

- GPS/site survey;
- Completion of preliminary studies, including:
 - Geotechnical
 - Cultural/archaeological
 - Phase 1 ESA;
- Civil engineering design;
- Construction cost estimates;
- Trail identification and alignment flagging; identification of bridge crossing locations;
- Determination of final trail alignment for future purchase of easement.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Contracts for GPS/Site Survey	June 2008
Completed survey work	June 2008
Completed pre-acquisition studies and reports (see list above)	November 2008
Completed engineering design for weir design on Taylor property	November 2008
Trail alignments and bridge crossing locations to inform negotiation for easement or fee simple acquisition (Map and report)	November 2008
Final Report/Final Payment Request	December 31, 2008

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Survey	\$20,000
Civil Engineering Design	\$114,000
Study Reports	\$6,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$140,000

Letters of Support:

Placer County Board of Supervisors

Recommendation:

Staff recommendation is to fund the project at the requested amount of \$140,000.

PROJECT NAME: Placer County Hidden Falls Regional Park – Trail Connectivity Studies

2. Project Summary

Placer County is seeking \$140,000 in Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 84 grant funding to assist in the expansion of the Hidden Falls Regional Park.

Hidden Falls Regional Park (HFRP) is a Placer County-owned property located in the Garden Bar area in close proximity to the fast urbanizing cities of Roseville, Rocklin and Lincoln where few passive recreational opportunities currently exist in a natural setting.

The 1,196-acre park, dissected by Coon Creek and containing several waterfalls, is the first large-scale open space recreation area in western Placer County. The park provides trails for hiking, mountain biking, bird watching, nature study, walking, picnicking, fishing in freshwater areas, and horseback riding. These trails were established by the Placer County Parks Division using a balanced approach: public access with respect to the protection of the site waterways. In that same vein, these trails are also maintained in accordance with erosion control and run-off prevention best management practices. Permitting is currently underway to open the remaining 960 acres of the property, the former Spears Ranch, to the public. When complete, the park will offer 26 miles of trails.

The County and its partners such as the Placer Land Trust (PLT) are actively seeking acquisitions of properties in the area. Considerable progress has been made. One intriguing long-range possibility is to link HFRP to the Bear River. The PLT recently received \$1.25 million in Sierra Nevada-Cascade Conservation Grant Program funding to purchase the 320-acre Taylor property and place an easement on the 318-acre Freiheit property.

The two properties are to the northeast of HFRP and both will allow public access. There have also been preliminary discussions regarding the acquisition of a 1000+ acre property along the Bear River that connects to the Taylor and Freiheit properties. There is a small gap that would need to be bridged to connect these properties to HFRP to provide the opportunity for this significant trail lengthening. The County's long range goal is to work towards establishing this trail connection.

Placer County and PLT staff have met with two interested property owners on numerous occasions to tour their sites and discuss opportunities for this connection.

Creating the initial trail connection over the intervening land between the HFRP and the PLT preservation is a common goal of both entities that will not only provide public access to the PLT land, but is the first step toward opening up a larger breadth of scenic natural land and water resources for the enjoyment and education of the public.

To achieve this goal, a variety of environmental engineering and other studies are necessary to identify the trail alignment, waterway protection, bridge locations and to provide necessary data in support of Placer County real property negotiation efforts.

The total estimated HFRP Trail Connectivity Study project cost is \$191,000. A total of \$40,000 has been committed from the County's Placer Legacy Program, as well as \$11,000 of in-kind, County staff time to facilitate these activities. The SNC grant amount being requested is \$140,000.